



Bethlehem Star October 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

I can't help but reflect on where we were a year ago, October 2020...we had a small group that was putting together protocols for resuming in-person worship, training was held for volunteers willing to help with these worship protocols, a brief video was made so that folks knew what to expect when they returned for worship; we were readying ourselves in anticipation to resume in-person worship, with everyone's health and safety foremost in our mind. Now, October 2021, in-person worship and activities have resumed, with precautions still in place; we are intentionally and carefully moving forward. You will see in this newsletter, that we've had some recent special activities and are looking forward to more this month and in the months to come.

Thinking about where we were a year ago, it feels as though we've come a long way and for that I am grateful. I know you are too, I can hear it in your voices as you sing the liturgy (for the first time since March 2020) and I could see it on your faces as you received communion from me and the communion assistants. For those of you who were in worship or watched recorded worship for September 5, you heard me mention how moved I was when placing the hymnbooks back in the pew racks earlier that week, I was nearly brought to tears. It was a sacred and holy moment for me and it completely took me by surprise. It was as if I was bringing back a beloved treasure into someone's lives. These moments that we are resuming are beautiful and sacred, holy and treasured...I am grateful for them and I hope to not take them for granted. What moments have surprised you? Have you too experienced the sacred and holy in what had been thought of as ordinary? Take note and treasure them, giving thanks for fresh perspectives and experiences. I wonder what surprising moments are waiting?

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer Schultz

Pastor Jennifer is looking to create a Bible Study series on Scandals in Scripture and would like your input for stories you would like to learn more about. If you have a suggestion, please share it with her by the end of October. This Bible Study series will begin in early 2022 during Sunday School.

Congregational Meeting to approve the 2022 budget and 2022 Church Council will be Sunday, November 21 immediately following the worship service.

Sunday School has resumed: Children meet at 9:00 am in Bachman Hall. Adults meet at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room, we're studying the book of Esther.

Blessing of the Animals is Saturday, October 2 at 10:00 am in the courtyard. Bring your animal companion for a brief service that gives thanks and honors the animals in our lives. In remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi, whose commemoration is October 4, we offer this time of recognition to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. Please bring your animal on a leash or in a carrier to ensure the comfort and safety for all attendees.

Reformation Sunday is Sunday, October 31. It is the day we remember and celebrate Martin Luther's action of nailing his 95 Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. This action helped to spark what we know as the Reformation. You are encouraged to wear Red to worship this day, as it is the color of the day. We will have a time for cake and coffee following worship in the courtyard.

All Saints Sunday is Sunday, November 7. It is a day in which we honor and remember those who have been baptized and those who have died since All Saint's Sunday of last year. We will light candles on the baptismal font and the altar to commemorate this day. We are also going to add a slide show of pictures as part of our worship service, for those saints in our lives who have gone on before us. If you would like to contribute a picture of a loved one, please e-mail a picture to the church office at: blclosalamitos@gmail.com Please include the name of the person in the picture and who they are to you, an example would be: Albert & Ardea Lewison, grandparents of Pastor Jennifer. We kindly ask that you submit only 1 picture of your loved one. Please e-mail your picture/s to Ken by Sunday, October 24.

Beer and Hymns will be part of Bethlehem's 60th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 7. What is beer and hymns? Just as it sounds, an opportunity to have a beer and sing hymns. Beer and hymns has become a fun gathering for people to get together and enjoy a beverage if they wish, and the opportunity to sing hymns, from the classics to more contemporary. Some of the hymns written by Martin Luther were set to the tunes of popular tavern songs of his time. We will have beer, as well as non-alcoholic and root beer and have a hymn sing following our anniversary luncheon. The luncheon costs \$10 per person and includes a ticket for 1 beer for those over 21 years.

Bethlehem Lutheran continues to follow current **CDC guidelines** by recommending the wearing of face masks while gathered indoors at church (worship & fellowship). This is not a mandate but a recommendation, we will continue to monitor guidelines/recommendations and update our protocols as needed. We continue to encourage physical distancing, frequent washing of/sanitizing of hands, and staying home if not feeling well...we want to ensure the health and safety of our community and all who gather at BLC. We continue to record our worship services and make them available online, they can be found on the following platforms: A) Church Website: www.blcla.org On Homepage, in the "Worship" section and on the separate "Worship page" B) Church Facebook page: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos C) YouTube: www.youtube.com Search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos", click on "Videos"

The ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran are generously supported by your tithes and offerings, we are grateful for your continued donations. Your donations can be brought to the church, mailed in, or you can use PayPal. You'll find the PayPal Donate button on the Homepage of the church website www.blcla.org FYI, PayPal charges a service fee (2.9% + \$0.30) that is deducted from each donation. Your support is deeply appreciated in these challenging times, your financial support, your support by participating in weekly worship and Zoom check-ins, your support of LSS with food and clothing donations, your support of Paper Rollers with your newspapers, your support of one another by checking in on one another, your prayers and notes and phone calls. We thank you for your continued support in all of these ways and more.

Fresh flower bouquets are available to donate towards and dedicate, there are 2 bouquets available each Sunday and can be picked up following the worship service. Please contact the church office by phone or e-mail to participate, you can also check the flower calendar in the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

We have decided to postpone **Trunk or Treat** until October 2022, we look forward to holding this event next year.

Weekly Zoom Check-In Meetings: Each Wednesday evening from 7:00-7:30 pm, a group of people gather on Zoom to see and hear from one another. These are informal check-in style meetings, there is a time for sharing, offering prayer concerns, reading scripture, and praying the Lord's Prayer. You are invited to participate as you are able, if you would like to participate or have questions, let Pastor Jennifer know and she can share the login and password information. Zoom is best utilized on a computer or tablet and can be both video and audio or audio only through your telephone. Participants have commented on how much they appreciate this opportunity to see and hear from familiar folks.



Please join us as we celebrate

Bethlehem's 60th Anniversary

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Catered lunch, at Bethlehem,
following church service

Tickets \$10.00 per person

Stay tuned for more information



MEN-IN-MISSION MEETING : The next Bethlehem Men-In-Mission meeting will be on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 9:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue with a study of the **Book of Romans** from The **Master Builders Bible for Men**. The reading for this week will be Chapter 8: 1—39 with discussion on verses 28 - 39 / **More Than Conquerors**. All men are invited.

From the Church Council:

Blessed are we who are united in Christ. We are also blessed who serve our congregation. We can contribute in many ways to our beloved church family, including serving on the Church Council. There are currently 4 positions open on Council, each with a term of 2 years. In the next few weeks, you will have an opportunity to volunteer!

Please contact Brad Stevenson, Council President, or Jane Clausen, Council Vice President, if you would like further information.

“Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received”
(1 Peter 4:10)

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace.” During the next few weeks, we will consider what it means to be a “faithful steward” and how our stewardship translates into practical Christianity.

This emphasis is built in its entirety on two concepts: First, God owns everything! As Psalm 24:1 states clearly, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” God owns it all and has never relinquished the title deed to the world. Second, our responsibility is to manage that which belongs to God which God has entrusted to us. In other words, all that we have is a blessing from God and represents that which God has loaned to us on a temporary basis.

What kinds of things belong to God? Certainly our time is a gift from our Heavenly Father that is given to everyone equally. All of us have the same amount of time — 24 hours per day. How we use our time is what makes the difference for this life and for eternity. Some will squander their time by giving priority to activities that carry little impact for eternity. Others will invest their time wisely for God’s glory and for the good of others.

Our talents are also gifts on loan from God. Not everyone receives an equal amount of talents or abilities, but all of us can excel at something. Some are called to a public ministry whereby what they do is highly visible, including pastors, worship leaders and teachers. Others are called to a less visible role in the ministry and work of the church. But all of us are given talents and abilities which can be used for God’s glory and to strengthen the Gospel outreach here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

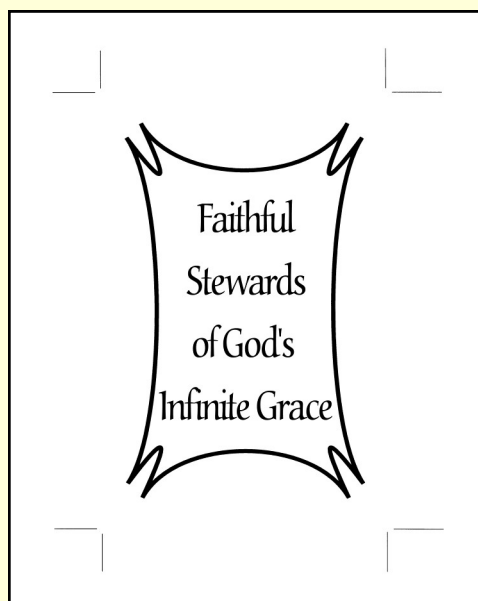
The question is not *whether we can* do something for the Lord. The question is *if we will* use our talents and abilities to serve God. Unfortunately, many times, we offer excuses to avoid serving the Lord, excuses that often appear humorous when applied to other activities. *Moody Monthly* once carried an article which illustrated excuses people might use for not attending sports events. The analogy is easy to make in terms of serving the Lord.

Every time I went, they asked me for money. The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly. The seats were too hard and not comfortable. The coach never came to call on me. The referee made some decisions with which I could not agree. I was sitting with some hypocrites — they only came to see what others were wearing. Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home. The band played numbers that I had never heard before. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves which sport they like best.

On the second day of their conference at Yalta, Premier Stalin gave President Roosevelt a reason why a proposed plan would not work. Roosevelt gently reminded Stalin that this was not the same reason he had given the previous day. Stalin replied, "My dear Roosevelt, whenever you don't want to do something, one excuse is as good as another."

Stop and think about it: 80% of the work in most churches (including our church) is done by 20% of the people. The rest have made other activities a priority for their time and talents.

As one of the "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace" here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, will you go against that trend by making a commitment to the "Proprietor of the Universe" to use the time and talents that have been given to you to make a difference in the ministry and outreach of our church? Remember, as one of those to whom God has entrusted time, talents and treasure, God is counting on you. . . .



Bethlehem Lutheran's
47th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar
Saturday, October 16, 2021 8am to 12 noon

Please contact Dianna Reynolds or Christina Watson if you would like to help in any of the following areas:

Setup/Cleanup

Gourmet/Bakery

Addie's Attic (Junktique)

Homemade Crafts (if applicable)

Lynn's Booknook

Although we are NOT hosting our kitchen this year, we do have a **Food Truck** that will be coming. Looking forward to gathering again!

You may start bringing your good clean "treasures" to Bachman Hall on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH. Pricing and sorting will begin upon arrival of your treasures. Your help is needed to properly perform that task. Please have all donations in by Thursday, October 14th.



Bakery items will be bagged and tagged on Thursday Evening, October 14th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. or your donations, fully tagged and priced, may be brought to the kitchen on Friday, October 15th.

Thank you, Christina Watson and Dianna Reynolds, Co-chairs

A bit of trivia

...in 1973 the proceeds from the first Apple Festival Bazaar paid for the Wolfe Stoves that faithfully served Bethlehem's kitchen for 40 years. Janice Hunt was President of W.E.L.C.A. (40 years ago it was L.C. W.) and Luelle Buezis was the chair of our first bazaar.

Judy's Kitchen



Thank you for being a part of the Bethlehem Service

On Saturday, September 18th at Judy's Kitchen we served a total of 60 full lunches and 10 sandwich-only lunches. The menu consisted of a BBQ pulled pork sandwich, cheesy corn casserole, broccoli slaw and chocolate cake. Due to the current church protocol, we served all lunches to go. We began lunch service at 11:00 a.m. and served the local neighborhood, while the church was serving their Mother's in Transition population, with children's clothes as well as canned food items. Thank you to Christina Watson (who made the broccoli slaw) and served, as well as server, Johanne Hansen. We were a well-oiled "small but mighty" group. Thank you to WELCA for donating the funds to cover all expenses. It's a joy to serve!

Dianna Reynolds
Judy's Kitchen Coordinator
September 18, 2021



Lutheran Social Services-Long Beach Community Care Center - Monthly Report



Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,

We are asking you for your continuing help during **OCTOBER** for: **Canned Soups and Chili or Beans. Cereals** are a daily need.

THANKGIVING BAGS will be assembled soon and needed food items are:

Canned Yams, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Marshmallow Bags, Canned Gravy, Stuffing Mix, Potatoes (boxed or bags), Mac and Cheese, Rice, Canned Corn and Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Pumpkin, Canned Ham or Spam.

Continuous donated items of pasta, spaghetti sauces, any kind of individual cookies, bars or candy, individual size cereal bars, diced fruit cups and juice boxes are always appreciated.

Socks (new or gently used) are always needed for men, women, or children. Warm sweaters or jackets for the fall would be appreciated.

Thanks again for helping to keep our Lutheran Social Service cupboard (Pastor's Pantry in Narthex) full. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Long Beach and the people and families served daily in their Ministry again appreciate your kindness, care, and compassion.

Bob, Andrea, and Crew
Social Ministry Committee





Thank You Bethlehem Family and Friends for your wonderful response to our

“God’s Work-Our hands” Sunday event Sept. 12th, 2021

Wonderful, renewed fellowship was had by all. Special greetings from Lutheran Social Services, Southern California President and CEO Dr. LaShandra Beckwith were informative. We were able to collect items for **50** Birthday Gifts Bags with Cake mix, frostings and additional items including a gift card to make a special needed celebration.

We were especially grateful for **Thrivent Financial’s \$250.00 Action Team grant** which enabled the committee to purchase additional items for the Birthday Kits, individual food items, to serve as a lite refreshment to our members,

with the left-over wrapped food items given to LSS to put in the homeless bags they give out daily. Also, 30 boxes of assorted Cereals and 20 additional can food items were added to the delivery to LSS.

Special thanks to all who helped set-up, serve and the clean-up crew. We are so grateful for our Bethlehem family and friends who always come thru when asked.

Blessings,

Andrea and Bob Campbell

Social Ministry and Parish Life Committees

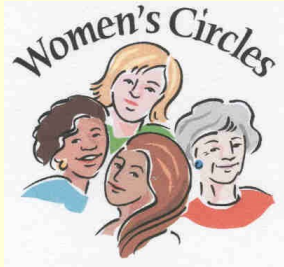




God's Work Our Hands 2021



October 2021



Faith Circle We will meet in Fireside on **Tuesday, October 5**, at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jennifer will lead the study. For questions and details, call Andrea Campbell.

Phoebe Circle We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dianna Reynolds on **Tuesday, October 12**. Dianna will lead the study. For questions and details, call Jeanne Sandvig.



Sunday Morning

Coffee & Cookies

Coffee service will resume when conditions allow.

Women in the Pacifica Synod

Check out Pacifica Partners on line

www.pacificawomen.org

click on news & events



October 16: 47th Annual Apple Festival Bazaar 8 am-12 pm. Christina Watson and Dianna Reynolds are co-chairs.

Mark your calendar: November 5-6 Pacifica Women of the ELCA Business Meeting/Gathering will be held via Zoom with the business meeting, for Board and Delegates, on November 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., for election of officers and board members. On November 6, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., a Gathering for all women will be held, via Zoom. Pastor Juli Patten of Christ Lutheran in San Clemente will be our keynote speaker. Love gifts are targeted for agencies dealing with human trafficking in San Diego county, Inland Empire, Hawaii and Orange county. Checks made out to our WELCA can be given to Christina Watson to be sent as a single donation to Pacifica WELCA treasurer, Laura Ortiz.



Join Women of the ELCA on Facebook

Pacífica Synod Women of the ELCA

2021 Zooming with Our Sisters-in-Christ

Date: Saturday November 6th, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting on Zoom .Com: Meeting ID: 836 3421 7328 and Passcode: 713252

Theme: Spiritual Disciplines—**Prayer, studying, solitude, service, submission, meditation, simplicity** are just a few of what is know as **Spiritual Disciplines.**

LOVE GIFTS:

*Hawaii will be sponsoring **Hale Lanipolua***

*Inland Empire will be sponsoring **Million Kids***

*San Diego County will be sponsoring **Generate Hope***

*Orange County will be sponsoring **Thattiana's House***

The Love Gift receipts work with individuals focusing on teenagers who are trying to get away from human and sex trafficking.

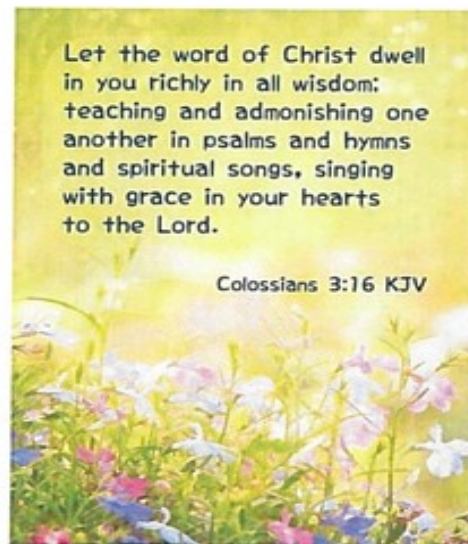
FOR QUESTIONS

Please Contact President Eunice Hanson at

Phone # (760) 717-2646

Let the word of Christ dwell
in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one
another in psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs, singing
with grace in your hearts
to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 KJV



Keynote Speaker: Pastor Juli Patten

Pastor for Christ Lutheran Church



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/7 Jane Clausen	10/8 Janice Hunt	10/9 James Toth
10/14 Lois DeForest	10/15 Betty Jones	10/20 BJ Stevenson
10/21 Erin Warnock	10/22 Eric Dobberteen	10/23 Pam Tipich
10/26 Krissy Retrum	10/27 Joyce Payne	10/27 Charlie Toth
10/27 Allison Warnock	10/27 Sharon Zarkos	10/31 Becca Desautel
10/13/2002 Jay & Diana Campbell 10/15/2010 John & Caroline Sisk		



Julie Anderson
 Elaine Asbury
 Amy Bachman
 Kevin Betts
 Kate & Steve
 John Buezis
 Fritz Campbell
 Shirley Campbell
 Caren Cantafio
 Laurie Carpenter
 Linnea Clayton
 Irene Cooper
 Maxine Cornwell

Sara DeWeese
 Katrina Gary
 Marge Hargrove
 Janet Harris
 Joe Harris
 Diana Hayden
 Gaylord Hollister
 Jason Jackson
 Genevieve Jenkins
 Betty Jones
 Dean Kinzel
 Julie Kizziar
 Barbara Krause
 Joan Lee
 William Lewis
 Erin Lopez
 Patricia Lueckert
 John Maio
 Jessica McIntire

Pete Miller
 Ethan Mohr
 Retta Rasmussen
 Shary Reed
 Dale Retrum
 Sandy Retrum
 Hattie Stretz
 Leslie Summers
 Ed Sutton
 Pauline Taylor
 Ann Tegtmeier
 Steve Tegtmeier
 Tom Watkins
 Jerry Whitmore
 Nancy & H.R. Williamson
 Marynell Wolfe
 Mitsuko Yamamoto
 Margaret Ziegler